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## 108~ Learn About Iowa Great Places at Spencer Forum

SPENCER - Iowa Great Places, an initiative that was announced earlier this year by Governor Vilsack, is designed to bring together the resources of state government to encourage bold thought and innovation and build capacity in communities, neighborhoods, regions, or districts.

The focus of Iowa Great Places is to cultivate the unique and authentic qualities that make these areas special places to live, work, and visit. Under the initiative, places will identify their strengths and their vision for the future in terms of seven dimensions: a unique sense of place, engaging experiences, rich social fabric, vital economy, strong foundation, pleasing environment, and creative culture.

Through a coaching and negotiating process, multiple state agencies will respond by collaboratively focusing their resources on helping to achieve a place's vision. Iowa Great Places will begin with three pilot sites to be selected by October.

A regional forum will be held Wednesday, May 18, at the Spencer Community Playhouse in Spencer from 4 to 6 p.m.

The forum is free and open to the public and will be offer an opportunity to explore the potential of Iowa Great Places.

To register online, visit [www.iowagreatplaces.gov](http://www.iowagreatplaces.gov). If you are a person with a disability and need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the forum, contact Jill Fulitano-Avery at (515) 242-6334 or e-mail [Jill.Avery@iowa.gov](mailto:Jill.Avery@iowa.gov).

For more information about Iowa Great Places, contact Jill

Hermann at (515) 281-8352 or [Jill.Hermann@iowa.gov](mailto:Jill.Hermann@iowa.gov), or Jeff Morgan at (515) 281-3858 or [Jeff.Morgan@iowa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Morgan@iowa.gov).